



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

ICE arrests suspect wanted for \$800 million bank fraud in Uruguay

MIAMI – Jesus Torres, Special Agent-in-Charge for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in Miami today announced the arrest of a dual Uruguayan-Italian citizen wanted in Uruguay in connection with an alleged \$800 million fraud scheme that led to the 2002 financial crisis affecting Uruguay, Argentina, and other countries in the region.

Earlier this afternoon, ICE agents arrested Juan Peirano-Basso (a.k.a John P. Basso, a.k.a. John P. Vasso, a.k.a. John P. Vazzo) in Coral Gables, Fla., pursuant to a provisional arrest warrant requested by the Uruguayan government and issued by the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Tennessee. The provisional arrest was made pursuant to the extradition treaty between the United States and Uruguay. Uruguay sought Peirano-Basso's provisional arrest for purposes of extradition to stand trial on charges of financial crimes in Uruguay.

ICE agents had been tracking Peirano-Basso's movements for several days and moved in to make the arrest after gaining indications that he may attempt to flee the United States.

Peirano-Basso is scheduled to make his initial appearance in federal court in the Southern District of Florida on Monday, May 22. Extradition proceedings will follow. He has been turned over to the custody of the U.S. Marshals Service.

The ICE Attaché in Uruguay worked closely with Uruguayan authorities, the U.S. State Department and the U.S. Department of Justice in coordinating the investigation and arrest of Peirano-Basso in Miami.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.